

**United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management**

**Environmental Assessment
DOI-BLM-UT-W020-2013-0016-EA**

June 2013

Long Ridge Iron Mine

Location: T. 18 S., R. 11 W., section 33; T. 19 S., R. 11 W., sections 4, 9, 16, 21, 27, 28, and 34.

Long Ridge LLC.
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Delta, Utah 84624

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Long Ridge Iron Mine

DOI-BLM-UT-W020-2013-0016-EA

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION AND NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION

INTRODUCTION

Long Ridge LLC proposes to placer mine iron ore from a un-named intermittent stream drainage that runs through section 33, T. 18 S., R. 11 W.; sections 4, 9, 16, 21, 27, 28, and 34 T. 19 S., R. 11 W., SLB&M. The iron ore would be recovered by stripping and stockpiling several inches of growth medium, then removing approximately 3-4 feet of stream alluvium with a front end loader. The alluvium would be processed through a screen plant to separate the sand sized fragment. The sand material would be processed through a magnet that would remove the iron ore. Reclamation would be performed by back filling the screened material into the excavation covering the replaced alluvium with the stock piled growth material and seeding the growth medium.

PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION

The Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) purpose and need is to respond to Long Ridge LLC's proposal under the 1872 Mining Law (30 U.S.C. 22) and the Federal Lands Management Policy Act (FLPMA) (43 U.S.C. § 1761) for authorization to mine iron ore in accordance with FLPMA, BLM 3809 regulations, and other applicable federal laws. The BLM can, through the NEPA process, evaluate reasonable changes (changes that would mitigate impacts while still meeting the proponent's objective) to the proponent's proposal and decide to require those changes. The decision the BLM will make is whether or not to authorize the Plan of Operations, and if so, under what conditions.

The objective of Long Ridge LLC is to develop their mineral right on their patented lands and retrieve their mined material from their federal mining claims UMC419552 through UMC419583; making legitimate economic use of public lands and to provide for mineral needs by mining iron ore from their patented and unpatented mining claims.

CONFORMANCE WITH BLM LAND USE PLAN(S)

The proposed action described below is in conformance with the Warm Springs Resource Area, Resource Management Plan (RMP) and Record of Decision Rangeland Program Summary, approved October 1987. It conforms to the applicable goals and objectives of the minerals program, on page 47, which are:

- “provide for discovery, development, and use of minerals on public land consistent with applicable laws and regulations”
- “require the least restrictive stipulations necessary to adequately protect other resources.”

The proposed action and alternatives described below are not within any of the areas recommended for withdrawal from mineral entry as listed on page 48 of the Warm Springs Resource Area RMP. It is in accordance with the applicable support requirements of the Warm Springs Resource Area RMP on page 47 which states: "Locatable mineral activity is non-discretionary and is regulated by 43 CFR 3800."

RELATIONSHIPS TO STATUTES, REGULATIONS AND OTHER PLANS

The proposed action and alternatives described below are required to be consistent with 30 U.S.C. 22; 43 U.S.C. 1732; The Federal Land Policy Management Act of 1976, 90 STAT. 2743; and Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations 3809 as authorized by 43 U.S.C. 1733. The proposed action and alternatives listed below would require notification or permits consistent with Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977 and Utah Administrative Code R647.

CHAPTER 2 DESCRIPTION OF ALTERNATIVES

INTRODUCTION

This chapter focuses on the Proposed Action and the No Action alternative. All potential impacts identified within the Interdisciplinary Team Analysis Record Checklist (Appendix A) have been incorporated within the proposed action. The No Action alternative is presented for the purpose of providing a baseline for comparison of the impacts of the proposed action. No other alternatives are necessary to address unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources.

PROPOSED ACTION

Long Ridge LLC proposes to placer mine iron ore from a un-named intermittent stream drainage that runs through section 33, T. 18 S., R. 11 W.; sections 4, 9, 16, 21, 27, 28, and 34 T. 19 S., R. 11 W., SLB&M. The iron ore would be recovered by stripping and stockpiling several inches of growth medium, then removing approximately 3-4 feet of stream alluvium with a front end loader. The alluvium would be processed through a screen plant to separate the sand sized fragment. The sand material would be processed through a magnet that would remove the iron ore. Reclamation would be performed by back filling the screened material into the excavation covering the replaced alluvium with the stock piled growth material and seeding the growth medium with an approved seed mix and fencing the re-seeded areas until vegetation is properly established. Reclamation would be conducted as mining progresses along the stream bed. Mining is proposed along approximately 3 miles of the intermittent stream; the stream bed to be excavated is from 150 to 300 feet wide. The operation would disturb 20 acres on state land and 45 acres on Bureau of Land Management administered land. The equipment to be used for the operation consist of two (2) 950 Caterpillar frontend loaders, one (1) Caterpillar D-6 bulldozer, one (1) Metso ST3.8 Screen Plan, two (2) Metso Track Mounted Stacker Belts, one (1) Metso Magnetic Separation Belt, and one (1) 5000 gallon water truck. The operation would have two to five workers working eight (8) to ten (10) hours per day year round. Down periods would be due to extreme cold or wet weather. It is estimated that the proposed mining would be completed in 350 to 400 work days.

Prior to surface disturbing activity the proposed mine site would be surveyed by a qualified wildlife biologist for kit fox, a BLM Sensitive Species. Occupied dens would be buffered by 300 feet until the den is no longer being used. All equipment would be washed prior to being brought on site in order to prevent introduction of invasive/noxious plants.

NO ACTION

The No Action Alternative would be to deny the Plan of Operation as proposed. Should the Plan of Operations be denied the current conditions would be un-changed. The no action alternative is to provide baseline information to aid in considering the proposed action. The ability to select this alternative is limited due to the mining law of 1872 that declares minerals on public lands to be “free and open to exploration and purchase” by US citizens. The plan of operation can be denied if it is found that the operation would cause “undue or unnecessary degradation.”

CHAPTER 3 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

INTRODUCTION AND GENERAL SETTING

The affected environment was considered and analyzed by an interdisciplinary team as documented in the Interdisciplinary Team Checklist. The checklist indicates which resources of concern are either not present in the project area or would not be impacted to a degree that requires detailed analysis. There were no resources which were found to be impacted to a level requiring further analysis.

CHAPTER 4 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

DIRECT AND INDIRECT IMPACTS

This section analyzes the direct and indirect impacts of the Proposed Action and the No Action alternative, to the resources identified in the Interdisciplinary Team Analysis Record Checklist and discussed in Chapter 3. Since no resources were identified as being affected no analysis is necessary.

NO ACTION

No action would not meet the need for proposed action and if appropriate briefly describe the benefits that would be forgone. There would be no environmental impacts from the proposed action because it would be denied.

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

Because there would be no direct or indirect environmental impacts from the proposed or no action alternatives, there would be no cumulative impacts.

CHAPTER 5
PERSONS, GROUPS, AND AGENCIES CONSULTED

During preparation of the EA, the public was notified of the proposed action by posting on the BLM Utah Environmental Notification Bulletin Board (ENBB) on April 24, 2013. No one has contacted the BLM in response to the notice. The Plan of Operations and this document is available for public comment for a period of 30 days as required by 43 CFR 3809.411(c).

Table 5.1. List of Persons, Agencies and Organizations Consulted

Name	Purpose & Authorities for Consultation or Coordination	Findings & Conclusions
Utah Division of Oil, Gas & Mining (UDOGM)	The project requires permit from UDOGM	UDOGM will be approving the permit once their permitting requirements are met

List of Preparers

BLM staff specialists who determined the affected resources for this document are listed in Appendix A.

Table 5.2. List of Preparers

BLM Preparers

Name	Title	Responsible for the Following Section(s) of this Document
Jerry Mansfield	Geologist	Complete Document
Cindy Ledbetter	NEPA Coordinator	Document Review

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A
INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM CHECKLIST

INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM CHECKLIST

Project Title: Long Ridge Iron Mine

NEPA Log Number: DOI-BLM-UT-W020-2013-0016-EA

File/Serial Number: UTU 89527

Project Leader: Jerry Mansfield

DETERMINATION OF STAFF: *(Choose one of the following abbreviated options for the left column)*

NP = not present in the area impacted by the proposed or alternative actions

NI = present, but not affected to a degree that detailed analysis is required

PI = present with potential for relevant impact that need to be analyzed in detail in the EA

NC = (DNAs only) actions and impacts not changed from those disclosed in the existing NEPA documents cited in Section D of the DNA form. The Rationale column may include NI and NP discussions.

Determination	Resource	Rationale for Determination	Signature	Date
RESOURCES AND ISSUES CONSIDERED (INCLUDES SUPPLEMENTAL AUTHORITIES APPENDIX 1 H-1790-1)				
NI	Air Quality	Fugitive dust will be temporary and of short duration.	/s/ Paul Caso	5/14/13
NP	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern	There are no ACEC's within the project area.	/s/ S Bonar	4/29/13
NP	Cultural Resources	Class III cultural inventories have been completed and no historic properties were identified. The project will have no effect on historic properties.	/s/ Joelle McCarthy	6/26/13
NI	Greenhouse Gas Emissions	BLM does not have the ability to associate an action's contribution in a localized area to impact global climate change. Further, an IPCC assessment states that, "difficulties remain in attributing observed temperature changes at a smaller than continental scale"	/s/ Cindy Ledbetter	4/24/2013
NI	Environmental Justice	Low income or minority populations would not be disproportionately impacted by the project.	/s/ Cindy Ledbetter	4/24/2013
NI	Farmlands (Prime or Unique)	A review of maps of prime and unique farmlands obtained from the NRCS shows that there are no prime or unique farmlands within the project area.	/s/ Bill Thompson	4/26/2013
NI	Floodplains	There are no designated floodplains within the project area.	/s/ Paul Caso	5/14/13
NI	Fire	No effect on current fire management activities. Standard fire stipulations should apply.	/s/ Gary Bishop	6/10/13
NI	Fuels Management	No effect on current HFR projects.	/s/Jay Beckstrand	6/24/2013
NI	Geology / Mineral Resources/Energy Production	This activity will occur under the surface management regulations for locatable minerals.	/s/J Mansfield	04/25/2013
NI	Invasive Species/Noxious Weeds (EO 13112)	Because this is a soil disturbing activity all equipment used on the project site will need to be cleaned prior to entering the work site. Any noxious or invasive weeds identified should be treated as soon as possible under the direction of the FFO weed coordinator.	/s/ RB Probert	4/29/2013
NI	Lands/Access	The project, as proposed, would not affect access to public lands. The proposed action would be subject to valid prior existing rights-of-way	/s/ Teresa Frampton	4/29/2013

Determination	Resource	Rationale for Determination	Signature	Date
NI	Livestock Grazing	<p>Since vegetation would be removed the amount of forage produced on the disturbed area would be reduced which would have the potential to affect available forage for livestock in the area. The proposed action indicates that 10 acres would be affected at a time. If this were to be 10 acres per year then at the end of a year the acres disturbed could be seeded and fenced to allow for the seeded species to become established without grazing pressure. The area would need to remain fenced until desired perennial vegetation becomes established. Typically this would be within 2 or 3 years of seeding. Seeding must be done in the fall (Late September through November).</p> <p>The mix of species that could be anticipated to have the best chance of establishment in this area would be as follows: Indian ricegrass 4 Lbs. per acre Forage Kochia 1 Lb. per acre Siberian Wheatgrass 2 Lb. per acre Hycrest 1 Lb. per acre Munro globemallow 1/10 lb. per acre Alkali sacaton ½ Lb. per acre White sage (winterfat) 2 lb. acre Fourwing Saltbush 2 lb. acre</p> <p>Seeds should be broadcast followed by disking except forage kochia would be broadcast following disking.</p>	Bill Thompson	4/26/2013
NI	Migratory Birds	The project will not impact migratory birds or any critical habitat.	/s/Mace Crane	5/20/13
NP	National Historic Trails	No National Historic Trails are present within or near the project area	/s/ Joelle McCarthy	6/26/13
NI	Native American Religious Concerns	Letters to the PITU, CTGR, Ute, and Skull Valley Tribes were sent. No response was received.	/s/ Joelle McCarthy	6/26/13
NP	Paleontology	No known significant paleontological resources.	/s/J Mansfield	04/25/2013
NI	Rangeland Health Standards	This project has the potential to affect the health of that portion of the rangeland that is disturbed. Removal of vegetation and soil disturbance would affect the permeability and infiltration rates that sustain or improve site productivity (Rangeland Health Standard #1). Mitigation would include seeding the species listed above and fencing the seeded area to keep livestock from grazing the area until the desired species become established.	/s/ Bill Thompson	4/26/2013
NI	Recreation	There would be no impacts to casual recreation use in the project area.	/s/S Bonar	4/29/13
NI	Socio-Economics	Impacts from the proposed action on a county-wide scale would be negligible and therefore do not need to be analyzed further.	/s/ Cindy Ledbetter	4/24/2013
NI	Soils	The proposed mining activity will result in removal of vegetation and major soil disturbance. This disturbance may lead to increased wind and/or water erosion. The area will need to be re-contoured and re-seeded as described in the mine operating plan.	/s/ Paul Caso	5/14/13
NP	Threatened, Endangered, Candidate or Special Status Plant Species	There are no known federally-listed plants or BLM Sensitive Plants within the proposed iron mine.	/s/ David Whitaker	5/16/13

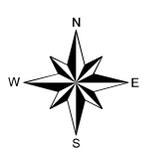
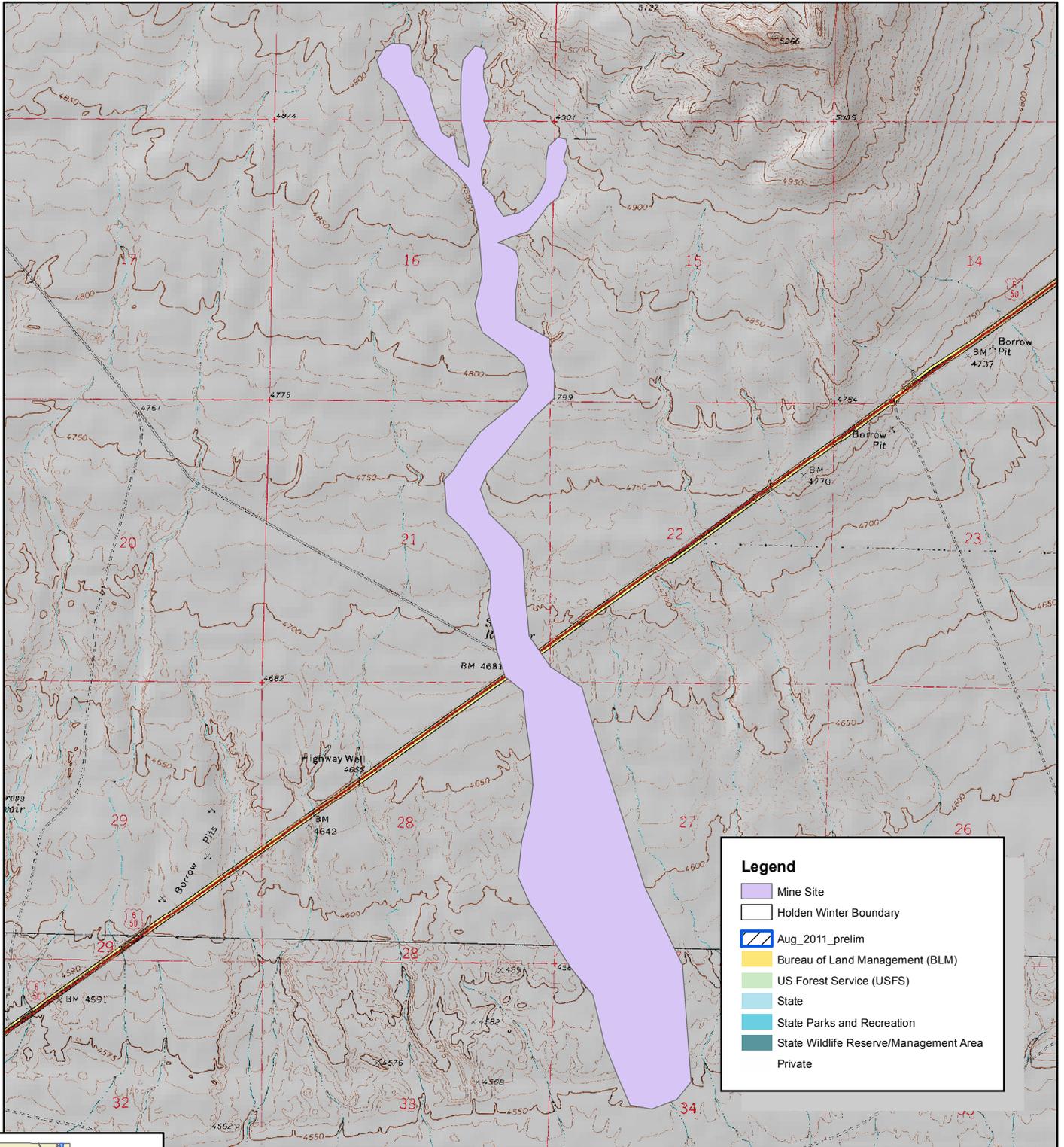
Determination	Resource	Rationale for Determination	Signature	Date
NI	Threatened, Endangered, Candidate or Special Status Animal Species	No impacts anticipated to T&E or special status species. This analysis is based on the proposed surveys for kit fox (<i>Vulpes macrotis</i>) a BLM Sensitive Species. Occupied dens will be buffered by 300 feet until the den is no longer being used.	/s/Mace Crane	5/20/13
NI	Wastes (hazardous or solid)	No solid or hazardous waste will be produced from this activity. Any minor spills of petroleum products from equipment use will be required to be cleaned up.	/s/J Mansfield	04/25/2013
NI	Water Resources/Quality (drinking/surface/ground)	Increased runoff may occur as a result of vegetation removal and soil disturbance, but would be temporary until reclamation is completed.	/s/ Paul Caso	5/14/13
NI	Water Rights	There will be no impact to water rights.	/s/ Paul Caso	5/14/13
NP	Wetlands/Riparian Zones	There are no riparian areas or wetlands within the project area.	/s/ Bill Thompson	4/26/2013
NP	Wilderness/WSA	There are no wilderness/WSA's in the project area.	/s/S Bonar	4/29/13
NI	Wildlife and Fish Excluding Designated/Special Status Species	No Impacts are anticipated to and Fish or Wildlife Species.	/s/Mace Crane	5/20/13
NI	Woodland / Forestry	Proposed project would not cause changes to overall health of Pinyon/Juniper woodland	/s/Eric Reid	4/30/2013
NI	Vegetation Excluding Designated/Special Status Species	Vegetation would be lost from disturbed areas and these areas would need to be restored by seeding species listed above under livestock grazing.	/s/ Bill Thompson	4/26/2013
NI	Visual Resources	This project would not change the VRM Class IV Classification.	/s/S Bonar	4/29/13
NP	Wild Horses and Burros	The project is outside of all existing Herd Areas or Herd Management Areas.	/s/ Kevin Lloyd	4/29/2013
NP	Lands with Wilderness Characteristics	There are no lands with wilderness characteristics in the project area.	/s/S Bonar	4/29/13

FINAL REVIEW:

Reviewer Title	Signature	Date	Comments
Environmental Coordinator			
Authorized Officer			

APPENDIX B
SITE MAP

Long Ridge Placer Iron Mine UTU 89527



0.0510.2 Miles

1:32,382

June 26, 2013

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
 FILLMORE FIELD OFFICE



This product may not meet BLM standards for accuracy and content. Different data sources and input scales may cause misalignment of data layers. Transportation network has not been verified.